

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim Objection

Claim 11 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), as being of an improper dependent form for failing to limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant concurs that claim 1 already includes the limitation of a filter cartridge, thus making claim 11 superfluous. Applicant has cancelled claim 11.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1-5 and 7-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Chiang (U.S. Patent No. 5,294,335) in view of Cartigny (U.S. Patent No. 5,678,721). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For the reasons cited in applicant's earlier response, Chiang does not teach, disclose, or suggest a linear cam in sliding mechanical communication with a clamp. The Examiner apparently concurs; however, Cartigny has been cited in combination with Chiang to yield a "combined" design having a clamp actuator that includes a linear cam. The Examiner states it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the clamp of Cartigny because the locking-unlocking device provides a simple and reliable manner of certain and complete closing of the vessel. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Cartigny teaches a device having a locking/unlocking lid to form a pressure-cooking vessel. The lid includes two jaws 15a, 15b, mounted radially movably on a closing disc 8 between a locking position of the lid 1 on a container. Cartigny, col. 3, ll.37-40. Each jaw is movably mounted on the cover by an intermediary of drive elements including associated drive arms 20a, 20b, diametrically opposite and fixed by an extremity 21, for soldering to an upper edge 17 of lid 1. Cartigny, col. 3, ll.47-51. Importantly, drive arms 20a, 20b, have a length sufficient to be able to *overlap* during their radial displacement. Drive arms 20a, 20b are particularly capable of overlapping at least in the locking position of the jaws. Cartigny, col. 3, ll.59-63. The present invention does not have overlapping drive arms. The linear cam 130 is placed between, and in slidable communication with each planar portion 170, 170' of the clamps, such that the two planar portions 170, 170' do not overlap. Fig. 3.

Cartigny also teaches clamp actuator that is activated by control means 50, which is constituted by a knob 51 fixed to the cover 1, and having a control button 52 mounted to be axially and elastically movable by a return spring 52a in knob 52. Cartigny, col. 5, ll.29-34. In this manner, control button 52 is pressed or activated *vertically* (in a direction coaxial with the center axis of the lid and/or container), pushing down an activation finger 53, which is provided with an inclined engagement surface 54. Cartigny, col. 5, ll.34-42. The vertical activation of the control button ultimately causes the radial displacement of the drive arms 20a, 20b. *Id.*; Figs. 1 & 6.

In the present invention, the clamp actuator is activated by moving the linear cam 130 in a *radial* direction. This movement causes the planar portions 170, 170' of the clamps to move in or out in a radial direction perpendicular to the direction of the actuator. There is no vertical actuation, which is required of Cartigny's control button. Additionally, since the

planar portions 170, 170' in at least one embodiment of the present invention are separated by the cam 130, they cannot overlap. Fig. 3. As depicted in Fig. 3, planar portions 170, 170' include angled features that correspond to complementary angled features on each side of cam 130 to slidably move planar portions 170, 170' radially outward when cam 130 is pushed radially inward, and to move planar portions 170, 170' radially inward when springs 220 are allowed to retract and cam 130 is moved outward. Cartigny does not teach this structure.

Last, the present invention's rotary cam is distinctly different from Cartigny's rotary cam. Referring to Fig. 5 of the present invention, the rotary cam is shown having a slotted tab that includes a first slot 530 slidably fitted to a center axial pin 540 extending from a top surface of the head. A second slot on the slotted tab is shown slidably fitted to a pin off-axis from the center axial pin, with the second slot angled relative to the first slot, such that the rotary cam is engaged when the slotted tab is moved in a radial, linear direction. Cartigny does not teach or disclose this type of rotary cam mechanism. The rotary cam of the present invention also includes two linear tracks 550, 550' equidistant from the center slot and parallel to one another, containing tracking pins that extend from each clamp's top surface and traveling within each of the linear tracks when the rotary cam is engaged when the slotted tab is moved in a radial, linear direction. Cartigny is silent with respect to this type of rotary-linear cam combination.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 13, 15 and 18, and have added new claim 23 to more clearly define the invention disclosed by Figs. 3 & 5, and distinguish the claimed invention over the cited prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the entire case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Curcio', is written over a horizontal line.

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